

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis comprising a flexible portion and at least one less flexible portion, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said flexible portion comprises a fibre-reinforced hydrogel, characterized in that fibres are provided on the whole of the flexible portion and the at least one less flexible portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim 1, characterized in that said less flexible portion is provided on a bottom side and/or an upper side of said flexible portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim [[2]] 1, characterized in that said less flexible portion is an end plate.

4. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim 1, characterized in that said less flexible portion is provided on an inner side of said flexible portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim[[s]] 1[[ -4]], characterized in that said prosthesis is for replacement of a joint in a human or animal.

6. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim 5, characterized in that said prosthesis is for replacement of a part or the whole of a intervertebral disc.

7. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim[[s]] 1[[ -6]], characterized in that said flexible portion has swelling characteristics comparable to those of a natural intervertebral disc.

8. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim 1[[-7]], characterized in that said flexible portion consists of a slice of a fibre-reinforced hydrogel having a thickness of 5-15 mm.

9. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim 8, characterized in that said slice of fibre-reinforced hydrogel has a thickness of 8-10 mm.

10. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] prosthesis according to claim[[s]] 1[[-9]], characterized in that said fibre-reinforced hydrogel comprises at least 5% fibres.

11. (Currently Amended) A prosthesis consisting of ~~a fibre-reinforced hydrogel~~ the prosthesis of claim 1, characterized in that the prosthesis is intended to replace cartilaginous materials.

12-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A method of using a ~~Use of the prosthesis comprising implanting the prosthesis of~~ according to claim[[s]] 1[[-20,]] ~~characterized in that said prosthesis is implanted in~~ a human[[s]] or an animal[[s]].

22. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Method for the use~~ according to claim 21, characterized in that the volume of the prosthesis is reduced prior to the implantation thereof by extracting water therefrom.

23. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method according to claim 22, characterized in that the volume of prosthesis is reduced by immersing it in a hypertonic salt bath.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing the prosthesis according to claim[[s]] 1 [[- 20]], characterized in that the fibres are provided on the

whole of the flexible portion and/or at least one less flexible portion by winding or knitting.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 24, characterized in that the angle at which the fibres are arranged with respect to an axis of rotation varies from 5° to 90°.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~[[A]]~~ method according to claim 25, characterized in that said angle varies from 45° to 60°.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~A method of preparing the flexible portion for a~~ prosthesis according to claim 1 ~~or 11~~, characterized in that the flexible portion is prepared by forming a bar of the hydrogel ~~is formed~~, from which slices are cut.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis ~~A method~~ according to claim 27~~[[~~-28]], characterized in that said slices are cut by setting up the bar on a lathe and moving a knife through the bar.

30. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis ~~A method~~ according to claim 29, characterized in that said knife is lubricated during cutting.

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~A fibre material apparently intended for use in the~~ prosthesis according to claim 1 ~~or 11~~, characterized in that said fibres have a low elasticity modulus.

32. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis ~~A fibre material~~ according to claim 1 ~~or 11~~ 31, characterized in that said fibres are capable of absorbing hydrogel monomers.

33. (Currently Amended) The prosthesis ~~A fibre material~~ according to claim~~[[s]]~~ 31~~[[~~-32]], characterized in that said fibres are made of polyurethane.

34. (New) The prosthesis according to claim 1, characterized in that the fibres on the whole of the flexible portion and the at least one less flexible portion are wound or knitted fibres.

35. (New) The prosthesis according to claim 34, characterized in that the fibres are wound fibres.

36. (New) The method according to claim 24 characterized in that the fibres are provided on the whole of the flexible portion and at least one less flexible portion by winding.